



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

Opportunity for All Campaign

Poverty Increases in 2003

Poverty is increasing among Americans of all ages.

	2003	2002	2000	Change 2003-2002	Change 2003-2000
Number poor <i>(millions)</i>	35.861	34.570	31.581	1.291	4.28
Percent poor	12.5	12.1	11.3		

Poverty has grown among children, too; they remain disproportionately poor.

	2003	2002	2000	Change 2003-2002	Change 2003-2000
Number poor <i>(millions)</i>	12.866	12.133	11.587	0.733	1,279
Percent poor	17.6	16.7	16.2		

The vast majority of poor children live in working families.

	Total Poor <i>(millions)</i>	Poor in Working Families <i>(millions)</i>	% in Working Families
2003	12.340	8.639	70.0%
2002	11.646	8.535	73.3%

Even at twice the poverty line (\$37,320 a year for a family of four), families struggle to make ends meet.

Nearly four in ten of America's children live in families with incomes this low; almost all in families where someone works.

	Children below 200% federal poverty line		All people below 200% federal poverty line	
	Number <i>(millions)</i>	Percent	Number <i>(millions)</i>	Percent
2003	28.566	39.1	89.349	31.1
2002	27.810	38.3		
2000	26.891	37.4		

Black and Hispanic adults and children are far more likely to be poor than Whites.

	2003		2000	
	Number Poor (millions)	Percent Poor	Number Poor (millions)	Percent Poor
All Ages				
Black	9.108	24.3	7.982	22.5
Hispanic	9.051	22.5	7.747	21.5
White	15.902	8.2	14.366	7.4
Children				
Black	4.108	33.6	3.581	31.2
Hispanic	4.077	29.7	3.522	28.4
White	4.233	9.8	4.108	9.1

White is non-Hispanic; Hispanic may be of any race.

There are nearly one million more children living below half the poverty line since 2000 – that’s less than about \$7,500 for a three-person family.

Children living below half the poverty line	
2003	5.6 million
2002	5.0 million
2000	4.6 million

There were 580,000 more children living in such extreme poverty in 2003 than in 2002 – a stunningly big increase for just one year.

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